



National Environmental Education Advancement Project
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Phone (715) 346-4748 ♦ Fax (715) 346-4385
neeap@uwsp.edu ♦ www.uwsp.edu/cnr/neeap

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Contact:

Jeremy Higgins, Outreach Coordinator
National Environmental Education Advancement Project
(715) 346-4179
Jeremy.Higgins@uwsp.edu

Mary Rice
IL EETAP Project Manager
847-985-2100
marice@parkfun.com

IL Environmental Education Partnership Receives Federal Funding

The Illinois Environmental Education Advancement Consortium (IEEAC) and the Environmental Education Association of Illinois (EEAI) has received two years of additional funding through the national Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP). The grant will assist organization training and dissemination of high-quality environmental education to a broad network. IEEAC and EEAI will receive \$60,000 to support their work through September, 2005.

The federal grant will help build stronger partnerships and training for environmental education leaders. “We have seen great successes in the first two years of the EETAP grant,” said Mary Rice, Project Manager of the statewide grant. “We established regional networks of environmental education leaders and created a network to share information.”

“We will build on that base to work with our regional networks, our online database, and expand our educator trainings to ultimately reach many underserved and under represented audiences within the state,” said Rice.

Illinois and seven additional states received financial support to advance environmental education in these states. These eight states receive U.S. EPA funds through the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) based at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

As part of their EETAP project, the Illinois team designed a searchable on-line database to expand access to environmental education information across the state. The database is located at www.illinoisee.org. Individuals can search for teacher resources, providers of workshops or field trips, information on organizations, and events. This searchable database also provides help with correlation to the state standards.

The National Environmental Education Advancement Project (NEEAP), one of eight national EETAP partners, manages the EETAP States Program and administers the states' grants. "Illinois is creating a strong coordinated, regional approach to promoting high-quality, comprehensive environmental education," said Jeremy Higgins, NEEAP Outreach Coordinator. "We are excited to support Illinois' efforts to bring organizations together to share information to effectively meet the common goals of environmental literacy."

For more information about NEEAP or capacity building related activities, visit the website <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/neeap/>.

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